

July 17, 2008

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Attn: Jean McCue  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Support for Revocation of Auburn Dam Water Rights Permits

Ms. Doduc,

The undersigned conservation organizations support the Water Board's proposed revocation of the water rights permits held by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Auburn Dam Project. Revoking these permits will allow the water to be put to true beneficial use and will help ensure that the outstanding natural resources of the American River are protected for the future. Revocation will also bring existing allocations in line with existing uses.

A large multi-use dam on the American River would drown 50 miles of river canyon containing numerous sensitive plant and wildlife species, rich cultural and historic sites, and highly valued recreational lands that millions of Californians enjoy each year. The water permits in question have been held by the Bureau for over 35 years without action. Auburn Dam continues to have no financial support, insufficient legislative support, and because of seismic safety and environmental concerns, as well as inflating costs, is certainly not supported by most Californians. By revoking the unused water rights permits associated with this project, we can finally move on to using this water for truly beneficial purposes, such as supporting a healthy American River.

I support the proposed revocation of permits 16209, 16210, 16211, and 16212 currently held by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Thanks,

Steven L. Evans  
Conservation Director  
Friends of the River

Gary Bobker  
Program Director  
The Bay Institute

Steve Rothert  
Director, California Field Office  
American Rivers

Keith Nakatani  
Director  
California Hydropower Reform  
Coalition

Susan Britting  
President  
California Native Plant Society

Jeff Shellito  
Government Affairs Manager  
California Trout

Michael J. Painter  
Coordinator  
Californians for Western Wilderness

Jeff Miller  
Conservation Advocate  
Center for Biological Diversity

Trent W. Orr  
Staff Attorney  
Earthjustice

Byron Leydecker  
Chair  
Friends of Trinity River

Ron Bottorff  
Friends of the Santa Clara River

Aviva Imhof  
Campaigns Director  
International Rivers

Craig Thomas  
Executive Director  
Sierra Forest Legacy

Joan Clayburgh,  
Executive Director,  
Sierra Nevada Alliance